

## **Salamander Fact Sheet**

***Where Do Salamanders Live?*** People rarely see most salamanders because, as adults, salamanders spend most of their time in forested areas, living under rocks and fallen logs or in underground burrows. The best time of year to see these creatures is in spring when they move to wet areas to lay their eggs. These wet areas include ponds, ditches, marshes, meadows and a special, but little known habitat, called a vernal pool. Generally a vernal pool is a low spot in a forest or meadow that fills with water during winter and spring and then dries out by late summer. It can be big or small. Because these pools are temporary, fish cannot survive in the pools, thus the eggs and hatching larvae are safe from fish predation.

***Threats to Salamanders:*** The greatest threat faced by Connecticut's salamanders is the loss of habitat through development, fragmentation, degradation by pollution (i.e., overuse of fertilizers and pesticides), and the invasion of non-native plants. Several species of native salamanders are currently experiencing a long-term population decline, and four are on Connecticut's list of Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species. Many populations are localized and restricted to specific habitat types. Unfortunately, when these habitats are destroyed, the salamanders found there disappear too. Other than a few exceptions, salamanders do not relocate long distances to new habitats. Even if suitable habitat is located nearby, migration is very difficult due to the numerous roads that dissect across Connecticut. When these small, slow-moving creatures cross roads (particularly during spring migration to breeding pools), hundreds are killed by cars.

***What You Can Do:*** During the Year of the Salamander, and every year after that, make an effort to learn more about salamanders and take actions to conserve these special creatures.

Following are some suggestions:

- Observe, but do not collect salamanders. Learn more about them and help others understand and appreciate these fascinating creatures. Good resources are the DEEP's *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine ([www.ct.gov/deep/wildlifemagazine](http://www.ct.gov/deep/wildlifemagazine)) and PARC's website at [www.yearofthesalamander.org](http://www.yearofthesalamander.org).
- Discover vernal pools wetlands, and other important salamander habitats in your area. Promote stewardship, the preservation of open space, and wise land-use planning in your community. Limit or discontinue use of pesticides and herbicides around your home.
- Participate in a Year of the Salamander event or activity. Find out about events throughout the year on the Wildlife Division's special webpage at [www.ct.gov/deep/salamanders](http://www.ct.gov/deep/salamanders) or by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

### Connecticut's Native Salamander Species

Blue-spotted Salamander ( <i>endangered</i> )	Northern Redback Salamander
Common Mudpuppy	Northern Slimy Salamander ( <i>threatened</i> )
Four-toed Salamander	Northern Spring Salamander ( <i>threatened</i> )
Jefferson Salamander ( <i>special concern</i> )	Northern Two-lined Salamander
Marbled Salamander	Red-spotted Newt
Northern Dusky Salamander	Spotted Salamander